

COUNTDOWN 2010

Countdown 2010 Declaration

- Preamble -

Biodiversity, the web of life on Earth, is essential to the quality of human well-being, and it is a crucial element in sustaining the social, economic and spiritual dimension of all Europeans. Yet, biodiversity continues to decline. Political commitments have been made to stop this trend by 2010. However it is essential that further steps are taken to honour this commitment and to move from political commitments to implementation. The Countdown 2010 was initiated to encourage and enable decision makers and stakeholders to uphold their commitments and achieve the goal to "halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010".

We the undersigned:

Support the commitments to halt or significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, made by:

- European Union Heads of State in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy adopted at the Göteborg European Council, Sweden in 2001;
- World Heads of State in the Plan of Implementation at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002;
- World Environment Ministers in the Hague Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Netherlands 2002;
- European Environment Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in the Declaration of the fifth Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference, in Kyiv, Ukraine 2003.

Urge European decision makers at all levels, in both the public and the private sector, to contribute to these commitments, noting the following principles and preconditions:

- Meeting the 2010 commitments will require increased public awareness and participation in the issues involved;
- Biodiversity considerations need to be better integrated into all relevant sectors of public policy and all relevant sectors of the economy;
- Reaching the 2010 biodiversity commitments will require unprecedented efforts in adapting our activities to the needs of natural systems;
- Meeting the 2010 biodiversity commitments will require to reduce Europe's ecological footprint on other regions of the world;
- The development of suitable monitoring and indicator tools to assess the state of biodiversity in Europe is required to monitor progress in meeting the 2010 biodiversity commitments.

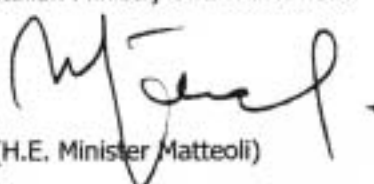
Commit ourselves to encourage and assist decision makers and European societies in achieving the 2010 commitments through actions that adhere to the principles of the Countdown 2010 process, notably:

- Focus public and stakeholder attention on the 2010 biodiversity commitments to keep biodiversity on the political agenda;
- Keep pressure on all stakeholders to achieve the 2010 biodiversity commitments;
- Mobilise all stakeholders to contribute to achieving the 2010 biodiversity commitments;
- Develop and implement, with all necessary stakeholders, a roadmap for achieving the 2010 target.

Organisation: Italian Ministry of Environment

Date: 13 June 2005

Signature:


(H.E. Minister Matteoli)